

21 October 1969

Colonel Vincent Lockhart
Hqs MACV, Box 101
APO San Francisco, California 96222

Dear Vince:

I hope you had a good trip and did not suffer an excess of cultural shock on either side of the Pacific Ocean or points in between. I am very sorry that your time in Washington coincided with some leave, illness and other family business that kept me out of the office for a spell and prevented our getting together. I was particularly anxious to talk to you to confirm face-to-face what I am sure you know to be the case: that I was very disappointed at the evaporation of the prospect of having you work with us back here but, at the same time, was constrained by my desire not to interfere with plans you and Ted had developed which seemed to be in the best interest of your career and our on-going responsibilities in Saigon. I hope we will have the pleasure of serving together in some future incarnation, and in the interim, wish you every success possible in your new Saigon duties.

We have had a slightly off-beat matter arising at this end and since I know you specialize in problems of this nature, I would like to take counsel with you for your thoughts on the matter at hand and obtain your suggestions on how we might best proceed.

As you know, one of my office's major areas of responsibility involves the operation of what we call our "Related Activities Center" which, as you know, is the company's and the community's main single focal point of knowledge on what goes on in Vietnam. You are, of course, well aware of the Center's scope and responsibilities both

Mac Chono
VAS Personnel

from your own visits here and from the splendid care you have taken in the field of people sent out from the Center to Saigon to perform various roles and missions related to their various responsibilities. As I think you also know, the Center is now run by a first-rate citizen named [REDACTED], whom

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[REDACTED] is doing a first-rate job, in expanding and amplifying the Center's foundation laid down by [REDACTED] has made himself and his operation highly regarded not only by our own seniors in the building but also by our masters downtown.

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[REDACTED] is an Army MI Reserve Lt. Col. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] due to go on a two-week active duty period sometime between now and mid-November. For his last active duty, in November 1968, I enlisted the offices of [REDACTED] and through [REDACTED] wire-pulling had [REDACTED] assigned to CINCPAC J-2. [REDACTED] can fill you in on the details. [REDACTED] performance was outstanding and resulted in a letter of commendation from CINCPAC. The opportunity for a mutual exchange during his two weeks service between him and his temporary colleagues was highly beneficial for all parties concerned.

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I am reluctant to lose [REDACTED] for two weeks at any time and when I must, I want to be sure he serves in a capacity that makes some contribution to our duties and to the government's total Vietnam effort. The thought has occurred to me that this year it might be highly beneficial if [REDACTED] could be ordered to reserve duty "for TDY purposes" and assigned for his duty period to Saigon to an appropriate component of MACV J-2. During [REDACTED] assignment there, it might be most beneficial for all parties concerned if he could get a first-hand look at J-2 procedures, analytical techniques and requirements. At the same time, he could make a very useful low-keyed contribution to J-2 in light of his knowledge, background and experience in running our Center.

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If you share my view of utility of this exercise and if Ted concurs, I understand from our military personnel people that the mechanics would not be excessively involved and that [REDACTED] has arranged such reserve active duty tours several times in the past. Unless you

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have better ideas, I would place [] on an office TDY to Saigon, and of course, would pick up the transportation and any other expenses. Our military personnel people have advised me that they can arrange all details at this end as soon as they receive an official request from MACV for [] active duty tour there. We would pick up all of his travel to and from Saigon and as far as the Army is concerned, he would simply be someone called to active duty while in Saigon for other reasons.

I would appreciate your thoughts and comments on this proposition. The ten cent pouch would probably be the best and quickest mode of initial communication and hence I suggest you drop an answer to my new home address, given below. (We sold our old house and are camping here while our new one is being built.) I think this idea has merit for all parties concerned. If you and Ted agree and can accomplish the necessary liaison in Saigon without drawing down too much of our capital with MACV, I will get the bureaucratic wheels grinding back here once you give the green light.

Again my regrets at not having been able to enjoy the convivial drink during your recent visit and my best wishes for both professional success and personal pleasure in Saigon.

As always,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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